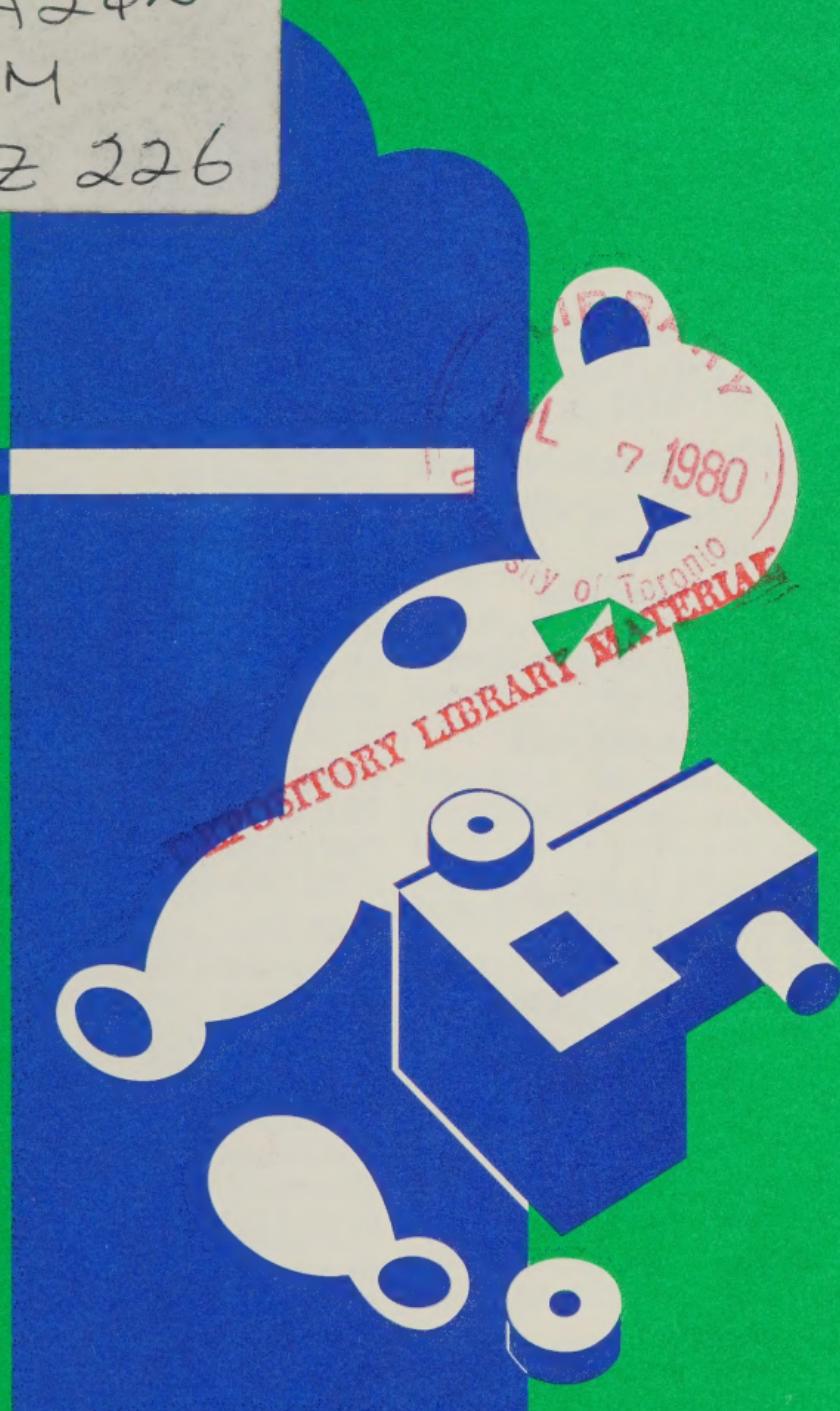


The Abused Child

CAZDN
SM
- Z 226



Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

March 1980

What is an abused child?

Any child who has been:

- physically harmed,
- seriously deprived of nutrition, care or affection, or
- sexually molested,

is an abused child. So 'abuse' can mean both actively hurting a child or passively failing to take proper care of a child. Children may be abused at any age.

We do not have absolutely accurate figures on child abuse, but conservative experts estimate that 2,000 to 3,000 cases occur in Ontario each year.

How can we recognize child abuse?

There are various signs of child abuse:

- a *physically abused* child may have bruises, burns, cuts or scars.
- a *neglected* child could appear malnourished, frequently over-tired, dirty, or inappropriately clothed.
- a *sexually molested* child may have bruises, lacerations, vaginal discharge or V.D.
- an *emotionally abused* child may be: unnaturally quiet and timid, or overly active and aggressive; afraid of strangers; or looking to strangers for affection.

How common is it?

Child abuse is a major problem — medically, legally and socially. While there has been an increase in the number of reported cases, many instances of abuse still go unreported. This means that many abused children and their families are not receiving the help which they so desperately need.

Who would hurt a child?

Many of the people who hurt children:

- are lonely or isolated,
- are experiencing a number of problems,
- have difficult-to-handle children,
- may have been abused themselves, or
- have had no opportunity to learn how to care for children.

The person who abuses a child needs just as much help as the child.

What can we do about it?

If you suspect that a child is being abused, hurt or neglected, get in touch with your local CAS or family and children's services association immediately. Check the telephone directory for the office closest to you. Calls about child abuse can be made at any time, day or night, seven days a week. Each report is confidential and is handled discreetly by an experienced social worker.

Early reporting of child abuse is vital. A family can often receive the help and guidance needed to prevent a major crisis. When a CAS investigates a report of abuse, a worker will interview the family and children concerned. Often counselling at this early stage can prevent painful separation of parents and children at a later date.

The Children's Aid Society and the Law

There are 50 CASs in Ontario. Each one works cooperatively with local hospitals, police departments, schools, and community agencies to prevent and deal with child abuse. In accordance with *The Child Welfare Act*, you are required to report any suspected case to a CAS. The CAS is then required to investigate the matter.

The Act states:

"Every person who has information of the abandonment, desertion or need for protection of a child or the infliction of abuse upon a child shall forthwith report the information to a society."

"... and no action for making the report shall be instituted against any person who reports the information to a society . . . unless the giving of the information is done maliciously or without reasonable grounds to suspect that the information is true."

(*The Child Welfare Act*, 1978, c. 85, s. 49)

As well as making it a citizen's duty to report, the Act also requires professionals and officials to report suspected cases of child abuse. This means that people such as teachers, policemen, doctors and nurses, who are in contact with children on a daily basis, *must* report, by law, suspected cases of abuse. Any professional person who fails to report suspected abuse may be fined up to \$1,000.

The children's aid society is concerned about both the child's welfare and the abuser's rehabilitation. *But the CAS cannot act without information.* It is up to you to report incidents of child abuse and neglect.

What are you doing about child abuse? *If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or wish to learn more about child abuse, contact your local children's aid society, or family and children's services.*

Children's Aid Societies

Algoma

65 Willow Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
P6B 5B1
(705) 949-0162

Brant

Box 774
70 Chatham St.
Brantford, Ont., N3T 5RY
(519) 753-8681

Bruce

Box 279
208 Scott St.
Walkerton, Ont., N0G 2V0
(519) 881-1822

Dufferin

Court House
51 Zina St.
Orangeville, Ont., L9W 1E5
(519) 941-1530

Durham
Box 321
200 John St.W.
Oshawa, Ont., L1H 7L3
(416) 723-5211

Elgin

27 Southwick St.
St.Thomas, Ont., N5R 3R7
(519) 631-1492

Essex

690 Cartaraqui St.
Windsor, Ont., N9A 3P1
(519) 252-1171

Essex R.C.

Box 2306
Walkerville Postal Station
1700 Assumption
Windsor, Ont., N8Y 4S2
(519) 256-3176

Frontenac

329 Johnson St.
Kingston, Ont., K7L 1Y6
(613) 542-7351

Grey

Box 129
715-3rd Ave. E.
Owen Sound, Ont., N4K 5P1
(519) 376-7893

***Haldimand**

Box 909
653 Broad St. W.
Dunnville, Ont., N1A 1T8
(416) 774-7471

Halton

467 Speers Rd.
Oakville, Ont., L6K 3S4
(416) 844-8211

Hamilton-Wentworth

143 Wentworth St. S.
Hamilton, Ont., L8N 2Z1
(416) 522-1121

Hamilton-Wentworth R.C.

627 Main St. E.
Hamilton, Ont., L8M 1J5
(416) 525-2012

***Hastings**

Box 186
311 Front St.
Belleville, Ont., K8N 5A2
(613) 962-9291

Huron

46 Gloucester Terrace
Goderich, Ont., N7A 1W7
(519) 524-7356

***Kapuskasing**

Box 188
Model City Mall
Kapuskasing, Ont.,
P5N 2Y3
(705) 335-2301

Kawartha-Haliburton

570 Water St.
Peterborough, Ont.,
K9H 3M8
(705) 743-9751

***Kenora**

R.R.#1, Ocean Ave.
Kenora, Ont., P9N 3W7
(807) 468-5508

Kent

Box 157
435 Grand Ave.W.
Chatham, Ont., N7M 5K3
(519) 352-0440

Lambton

Box 41
720 N. Christina St.
Sarnia, Ont., N7T 7H8
(519) 337-3231

Lanark

33 Craig St.
Perth, Ont., K7H 1X8
(613) 267-3140

***Leeds & Grenville**

Box 549, R.R.#1
Brockville, Ont., K6V 5V7
(613) 342-0310

Lennox & Addington

41 Dundas St.W.
Napanee, Ont., K7R 1Z5
(613) 354-4724

***London & Middlesex**

Box 848, Station 'B'
164 Albert St.
London, Ont., N6A 4Z5
(519) 434-8461

***Muskoka**

Box 1107
62 Kimberley
Bracebridge, Ont., P0B 1C0
(705) 645-4426

***Niagara Region**

Box 516
311 Geneva St.
St. Catharines, Ont.
L2R 6W5
(416) 937-7731

***Nipissing**

Box 1035
240 Algonquin Ave.
North Bay, Ont., P1B 8K3
(705) 472-0910

***Norfolk**

Box 601,
County Bldg.
Simcoe, Ont., N3Y 4M1
(519) 426-4290

***Northumberland**

230 Walton St.
Port Hope, Ont., L1A 1P2
(416) 885-8131

Ottawa

1370 Bank St.
Ottawa, Ont., K1H 7Y3
(613) 733-0670

***Oxford**

Box 312
92 Light St.
Woodstock, Ont., N4S 7X6
(519) 539-6176

Parry Sound

76 Church St.
Parry Sound, Ont., P2A 1Z1
(705) 746-5851

Peel

49 Kennedy Rd. S.
Brampton, Ont., L6W 3E4
(416) 453-4200

Perth

Box 278
380 Hibernia St.
Stratford, Ont., N5A 6T1
(519) 271-5290

Porcupine

54 Algonquin Blvd. E.
Timmins, Ont., P4N 1A2
(705) 264-4257

Prescott & Russell
Box 248
Main St.
Plantagenet, Ont., K0B 1L0
(613) 673-5148

Prince Edward
Box 1510
6 Ross St.
Picton, Ont., K0K 2T0
(613) 476-2765

Rainy River
512 Central Ave.
Fort Frances, Ont., P9A 1X9
(807) 274-3281

***Renfrew**
1219 Pembroke St.E.
Pembroke, Ont., K8A 7R8
(613) 735-6866

Simcoe
County Administration
Centre
Midhurst, Ont., L0L 1X0
(705) 726-6587

**Stormont, Dundas &
Glengary**
Box 994
27 York St.
Cornwall, Ont., K6H 5V1
(613) 933-2292

Sudbury-Manitoulin
1492 Paris St.
Sudbury, Ont., P3E 3B8
(705) 522-8600

***Temiskaming**
Box 1084
64 Government Rd.W.
Kirkland Lake, Ont., P2N 3L1
(705) 567-9201

Thunder Bay
Box 2027, Station P
309 South Court
Thunder Bay, Ont., P7B 5E7
(807) 344-9124

Toronto
33 Charles St. E.
Toronto, Ont., M4Y 1R9
(416) 924-4646

Toronto R.C.
26 Maitland St.
Toronto, Ont., M4Y 1C6
(416) 925-6641

Waterloo
355 Charles St.E.
Kitchener, Ont., N2G 2P8
(519) 576-0540

****Wellington**
Box 1088
55 Delhi St.
Guelph, Ont., N1H 6N3
(519) 824-2410

York
Box 358
85 Eagle St.
Newmarket, Ont., L3Y 4X1
(416) 895-2318

**Jewish Family and
Child Service of
Metropolitan Toronto**
3101 Bathurst St.
6th floor,
Toronto, Ont.
M6A 2A6
(416) 781-1592

**Ontario Association
of Children's Aid
Societies**
663 Yonge St. Suite 502
Toronto, Ont.
M4Y 2A4
(416) 924-2094

* Name is Family and
Children's Services

**Name is Children's Aid
Society
and Family Counselling
Service

